

ESTABLISHING THE COMPOSITION OF THE UNITED
STATES NAVY, TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF
CERTAIN NAVAL VESSELS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

APRIL 28 (legislative day, MARCH 30), 1942.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WALSH, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 6932]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6932) to establish the composition of the United States Navy, to authorize the construction of certain naval vessels, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to increase the authorized composition of the Navy in under-age vessels by 200,000 tons of combatant ships, and to authorize the President to undertake the construction of such types and tonnages of combatant ships as he shall determine to be necessary for the successful prosecution of the war.

It is vital during the continuance of the war that the naval shipbuilding capacity be utilized to the utmost. In order to accomplish this, contracts must be let and plans completed in time to lay down new ships as fast as required facilities will permit. The shipbuilding that would be authorized by enactment of the bill is necessary in order to accomplish this objective.

The committee are advised that the Navy Department contemplates utilization of the authority contained in this bill for the construction of submarines. The committee are of the opinion, however, that discretion should be vested in the President to depart from this plan in the event that experience gained in this war dictates such a course to be necessary. The bill, as reported, confers such discretion.